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NONLINEAR VISCOELASTIC BREAKUP IN A HIGH-VELOCITY AIRSTREAM.(U)

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Weiss and Worsham's predictions for atomization in high-velocity airstreams appear valid even when extended to higher viscosity fluids than originally derived. Newtonian, and viscoelastic fluids show different breakup mechanisms in high-velocity airstreams, as shown by injection photos, mass median diameters and drop-size distributions. Although not because of increase in viscosity alone, addition of polymer increases resultant particle size from liquids. For a given polymer, mass median diameter (MMD) versus $\lambda$ correlation derived from Weber style analysis (using the conjectural elongational viscosity model) predicts performance when concentration is varied. The first normal stress difference measured for viscoelastic solutions correlated well with their dissemination performance (MMD).		

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## PREFACE

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## NONLINEAR VISCOELASTIC BREAKUP IN A HIGH-VELOCITY AIRSTREAM

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Investigators<sup>1-3</sup> have shown that small additions of polymer to solutions may significantly alter their dissemination characteristics. Wilcox and Brown's study<sup>1</sup> of drop breakup in high-velocity airstreams has shown that it is possible to retard drop breakup by the addition of small quantities of polymer (as low as 0.1%) which impart viscoelasticity. Gerber and Stuempfle<sup>2</sup> have demonstrated, using an explosive projector system, that the generated particle size may vary considerably between liquids and suggested that this may result from the liquid exhibiting non-Newtonian characteristics when subjected to high transient stresses. Hoyt's photos<sup>3</sup> of jet discharges from a nozzle show differences in the surface appearance as it travels through the air and as it breaks up into a spray when small amounts of polymer are present. Although these studies qualitatively show that a slight addition of polymer significantly alters the deformation process, quantitative descriptions are not given.

To investigate the breakup behavior of viscoelastic fluids small quantities were injected into a high-velocity airstream. Rheological properties were varied to determine their effect on the resultant measured drop sizes. The breakup process was modeled using a Weber-style analysis in which only the simplest type of instability was considered: i.e., where the ligament necks off into a series of drops without interaction with the surrounding air.

### 2. WEBER-STYLE ANALYSIS

Weber's analysis of jets considers a long rod of liquid, of radius  $r_0$ , mass density  $\rho$ , and surface tension  $\sigma$ . The rod moves in the axial direction with a velocity  $V$ , and thus appears motionless in a coordinate system moving with this velocity. The surface tension causes the ligament to neck off into a series of drops. For a sufficiently low velocity ( $We_a < 4$ )\* one can neglect the interaction of the jet with the ambient air, and for Newtonian fluids this is the part of the theory that agrees best with experiment. A comprehensive review of Newtonian liquid jet breakup, however, is given by Reitz<sup>4</sup> where the wind inertia force is also considered. In this present viscoelastic-jet study even for  $We_a > 4$  the inertia effects of the air are neglected. For viscoelastic liquids the assumption perhaps is not too severe. The viscoelastic breakup photos (see figure 1) show no surface stripping even for large  $We_a$  indicating that perhaps the wind does not interact with the liquid aside from influencing the excess axial stress of the ligament.

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\* $We_a = D_0 V^2 \rho_a / \sigma$ , Weber number calculated using air density.

This observation is consistent with Hoyt's photos<sup>3</sup> which also show the elimination of small-scale surface disturbances upon slight additions of polymer to the fluid.

For a linearized-stability analysis, the disturbance is described by a small displacement  $U(x, t)$  in the axial direction,  $x$ . From mass conservation, the radius of the disturbed surface is  $r_0 (1 - \frac{1}{2} U_{,x})$ .<sup>\*</sup> The axial component of the momentum equation considering the radial stress due to surface tension is written as,

$$\rho U_{,tt} = -(\sigma/D_0) (U + r_0^2 U_{,xx})_{,xx} + (S(U_{,x}))_{,x} \quad (1)$$

The first group of terms on the right represents the axial pressure gradient caused by surface tension.  $S(U_{,x})$  is the excess of axial tension over radial tension, produced by viscous, elastic, or other effects and is treated as linear function of  $U_{,x}$ . Considering solutions of the form  $U(x, t) = U(t) \exp(i\zeta x/r_0)$  in equation (1) yields,

$$\theta^2 U(t)_{,tt} = 4\zeta^2 \{ (1 - \zeta^2) U(t) - (D_0/\sigma) S(U) \} \quad (2)$$

where

$$D_0 = 2r_0, \theta^2 = \rho D_0^3/\sigma \text{ and } \zeta \text{ is the wave number.}$$

In most cases to be considered this equation is satisfied with

$$U(t) = U_0 \exp(at) \text{ provided } S(\exp(at)) = F(a) \exp(at).$$

$F$  is a function of the growth rate,  $a$ , and independent of time,  $t$ . Then the momentum equation becomes

$$(\theta a)^2 = 4\zeta^2 \{ 1 - \zeta^2 - (D_0/\sigma) F(a) \}. \quad (3)$$

Although this linearized analysis is valid only for small disturbances it is assumed that the ultimate drop size is set by the wavelength of the fastest growing disturbance. Since solutions are of the form

$$U(x, t) = U(t) \exp(i\zeta x/r_0)$$

where

the wavelength of the disturbance  $L$ , is equal to  $\pi D_0/\zeta$ ,

\* Notation  $_{,x}$  implies differentiation with respect to  $x$ .



Figure 1. 9.8% Elvacite/Diethylmalonate Ejected into a High-Velocity Airstream



the volume of liquid in this length is  $\pi r_o^2 L$  which results in a drop diameter,

$$D_{\text{drop}} = D_o (3\pi/2\zeta)^{1/3}. \quad (4)$$

Therefore the volume of the drop is determined from  $\zeta$  corresponding to the fastest growing disturbance. Maximizing the secular equation (3) yields

$$\theta a = 2\zeta^2 \quad (5)$$

and

$$\theta a = 1 - (D_o/\sigma) F(a). \quad (6)$$

Since the drop volume is inversely proportional to  $\zeta$ , the first relationship shows that anything that lowers the growth rate of the disturbance increases the drop volume. The result is independent of the fluid stress response. However, the second result shows that  $\theta a$  itself does depend upon the stress response of the material, since  $F(a)$  does. The following are a few examples of the resultant drop sizes for some of the various possible forms of  $F(a)$ :

#### 2.1 Case 1, Inviscid fluid:

For an inviscid fluid the excess stress,

$$S = 0 \therefore F(a) = 0.$$

As a result

$$\theta a = 1 \text{ and}$$

the maximum growth rate  $a = 1/\theta$

so it is possible to consider  $\theta$  as a characteristic breakup time for the inviscid case, and

$$\zeta = 2^{1/2}/2.$$

#### 2.2 Case 2, Newtonian fluid:

For a Newtonian fluid the excess stress,

$$S = 3\eta U_{,xt} \therefore F(a) = 3\eta a$$

where

$\eta$  is the shear viscosity.

Substituting into equation (6) and solving for  $\theta a$  yields,

$$\theta a = (1 + 3Z)^{-1}$$

where

$$Z, \text{ the Ohnesorge number, } = \eta / (D_o \rho \sigma)^{1/2}.$$

The viscosity lowers the growth rate and, thus, as is expected, increases the drop size. From equation (4),

$$D_{\text{drop}} = 1.88 D_o (1 + 3Z)^{1/6}.$$

### 2.3 Case 3, Linear viscoelastic fluid:

For a linear viscoelastic fluid,

$$S = \int_{-\infty}^t 3G(t-t') U_{,xt}(t') dt$$

where

$G(t)$  is the shearing stress relaxation modulus. Then,

$$F(a) = 3a \bar{G}(a)$$

where

$\bar{G}$  is the Laplace transform of  $G(t)$ . For the simple case,

$$G(t) = G_o e^{-t/\lambda}$$

where

$\lambda$  is the mean relaxation time of the fluid. The Laplace transform of equation (8) yields,

$$F(a) = 3a\eta / (1 + a\lambda).$$

This is the same form as the Newtonian case except that  $F(a)$  is decreased by factor  $(1 + a\lambda)$  and thus the viscoelastic fluid behaves as a Newtonian fluid with reduced viscosity. Therefore smaller drops than a Newtonian liquid with the same steady-shearing viscosity are produced. The same is true for the more general case of  $G(t)$ . This result is consistent with Middleman and Kroesser's observation<sup>5</sup> that the jet length is smaller for a viscoelastic fluid than for a Newtonian fluid with a similar Ohnesorge number. However, results of the experiment described below conducted at high relative wind velocities are contrary to this observation. The airstream, in fact, appears to stabilize the jet and thus produces larger drops.

#### 2.4 Case 4, A conjectural model of extensional viscosity

Although the linearized analysis is not really applicable to the later stage of drop formation, one can obtain some idea of the nonlinear extensional viscosity effect if it is assumed that the linearized analysis is still applicable. Use of a formula derived for uniaxial extension from a convected-Maxwell constitutive relationship<sup>6</sup> yields for long times,

$$F(a) = 3\eta a / \{(1 - 2\lambda a)(1 + \lambda a)\}.$$

Again this result has the form of the Newtonian case, but  $F(a)$  is increased by a factor  $1/(1 - 2\lambda a)$  thus the fluid behaves as a Newtonian fluid with an increased viscosity. The  $1/(1 - 2\lambda a)$  term blows up when "a" approaches  $1/2\lambda$ , so the maximum growth rate is limited by  $1/2\lambda$ . Since  $\lambda$  is large in comparison to  $\theta$ , it limits  $a\theta$  to the small value  $\theta/2\lambda$  and the corresponding wave number to  $\zeta = 1/2 (\theta/\lambda)^{1/2}$ . By using the conjectural model of extensional viscosity one predicts a greater particle size than for the Newtonian case, and the drop volume should increase as  $\lambda^{1/2}$  while the diameter increases as  $\lambda^{1/6}$ .

### 3. WIND TUNNEL EXPERIMENT

An experimental study to determine how rheological fluid properties affect the resultant drop size of a disseminated fluid was conducted by injecting a viscoelastic liquid into a large airstream of sustained high velocity. A "blow-down" wind tunnel was used to generate this high-velocity airstream. The tunnel consisted essentially of a 30-m<sup>3</sup> compression tank connected to a cylindrical test section (3-m long by 6.3-cm inside diameter) and then to an expansion section with a gradually increasing cross section. The fluid was injected coaxially with the wind about 2 m downstream of the compression tank. To inject the liquid, either a 0.30- or 0.46-cm-ID stainless steel tube was used, both having length-to-diameter ratio greater than 80. The disseminated drops were sampled on a vertical grid located in the expansion section of the tunnel. The cross

section of the paper-coated plywood grid was about 20% of the expansion section at the sampling location. The collected stains were measured on a Quantimet 720 Image Analyzer\* and were converted to actual drop diameters by applying a previously calculated spread factor. (Glycerol drops were collected on teflon slides so actual distorted-drop-diameter measurements were made rather than stain measurements.) The relative airstream velocity measured with a Pitot tube was about 200 m/sec. A more detailed description of the tunnel and sampling technique is planned in another report.

#### 4. TEST FLUIDS

The test fluids used in this study are shown in table 1 with some of their physical properties. Gaskins, F. H. et. al., in an unpublished CSL report, Rheology and Fluid Dynamics Studies of Thickened Liquid Chemical Agent Simulants, March 1978, is the source of the information. Diethylmalonate (DEM) is the solvent for the polymer solutions. The viscosity and first normal stress differences of the solutions were measured on a model 18 Weissenberg Rheogoniometer (appendix, figures A-1 and A-2). The polymer solutions are obviously viscoelastic while the DEM and glycerol fluids were Newtonian over this same range in shear rates with viscosities of 0.02 and 9.5 poise, respectively.

#### 5. NEWTONIAN TEST RESULTS

Figure A-3 is a log probability curve of the measured particle diameters for the glycerol disseminated in the high-velocity wind tunnel. The plot indicates that the droplets are essentially log normally distributed although the slight inflection hints that the distribution is slightly bimodal.<sup>7</sup> Table 2 shows that the measured mass median diameter (MMD) agrees well with the empirical prediction of Weiss and Worsham obtained for low viscosity fluids.<sup>8</sup>

Weiss and Worsham results were correlated empirically by

$$(X\rho_a V^2/\sigma) = .61(V\eta/\sigma)^{2/3} (1 + 10^3 \rho_a/\rho) (W\rho\sigma\eta_a/\eta^4)^{1/2}$$

where mass median diameter  $X$ , air density ( $\rho_a$ ), relative velocity ( $V$ ), liquid viscosity ( $\eta$ ) and mass injection rate ( $W$ ) were changed over 4-to-25-fold range. Surface tension ( $\sigma$ ), liquid density ( $\rho$ ), and air viscosity ( $\eta_a$ ) were not varied significantly.

\*Manufactured by Cambridge Instruments, Monsey, New York.

Table 1. Physical Chemistry Data

A. Pure Liquids

Property	DEM	Glycerol
Surface Tension dyne/cm	30.4 (@30°C)	63.0 (@30°C)
Density, gm/cc	1.05 (@25°C)	1.26 (@30°C)
Viscosity, poise	.02 (@21°C)	9.0 (@21°C)

B. DEM Polymer Solutions

Type	Molecular weight (viscosity-avg.)	Concentration %	Zero shear viscosity poise
Polymethyl- methacrylate (PMMA)	$6 \times 10^6$	2.1	100.
		1.5	16.
		1.0	2.0
		0.5	0.3
Copolymer 80% PMMA 20% Polyethyl- butyl-acrylate	$1.9 \times 10^6$	5.2	9.0
Elvacite	$4.0 \times 10^5$	9.8	9.5

Table 2. Comparison of the MMD Test Results Versus the Weiss and Worsham Predictions. Both the standard errors and deviations (terms in parentheses) are shown for the measured results.

FLUID	Drop Diameter, microns	
	Weiss & Worsham	Measured
2.1% Poly(methylmethacrylate) /diethylmalonate (PMMA/DEM)	210	1980 $\pm$ 250 (400)
1.5% PMMA/DEM	110	1780 $\pm$ 200 (250)
1.0% PMMA/DEM	60	1480 $\pm$ 150 (250)
0.5% PMMA/DEM	30	1050 $\pm$ 150 (300)
5.2% Copolymer/DEM	100	1300 $\pm$ 150 (200)
9.8% Elvacite/DEM	100	1300 $\pm$ 150 (250)
DEM	10	Too small to measure
Glycerol	130	160 $\pm$ 20 (30)

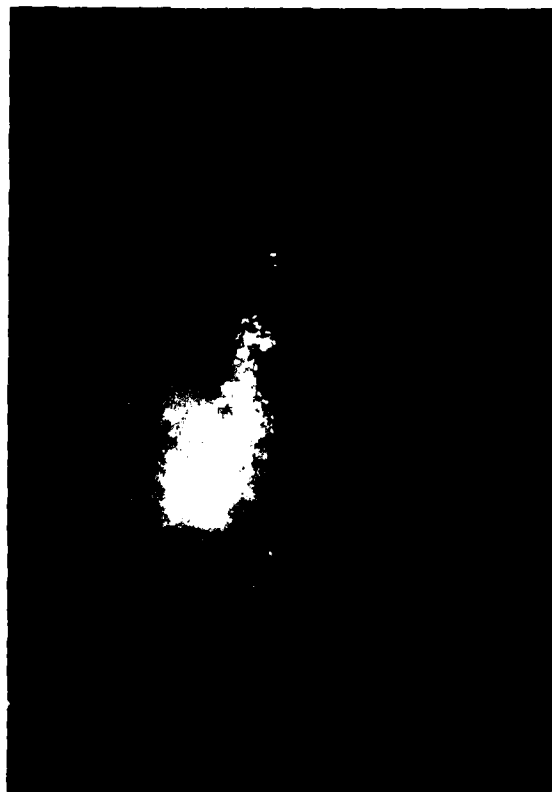


Figure 2. Glycerol Ejected into a High-Velocity Airstream

It was not possible to measure the MMD for the neat DEM since the disseminated particles were too small to measure using this technique.

To observe the dissemination behavior of the fluids photos using a high-intensity strobe light were taken of the fluid ejecting from the nozzle. Figure 2 clearly shows the rapid atomization that occurs for glycerol in the high-velocity airstream near the nozzle exit.

## 6. VISCOELASTIC RESULTS

The normally distributed disseminated 9.8% Elvacite fluid is clearly evident from the linear probability fit (figure A-4) of four combined-replica tests. Similar distributions were observed for the other polymer solutions as well. The breakup behavior of the viscoelastic fluid as it is ejected from the nozzle (figure 1) obviously differs from that of the Newtonian fluid. The fluid appears very stable and does not atomize rapidly as does the Newtonian liquid which eventually results in different final drop sizes.

Shown in table 2 are the measured MMD's for the polymer solutions tested. The measured particle sizes are an order of magnitude larger than that predicted from the Weiss and Worsham equation. Actually the difference is possibly even greater since zero shear viscosity values were used in the calculation rather than the lower values that exist within the injection tube. A comparison with the glycerol results indicates that viscosity can not account for increased particle size.

## 7. DISCUSSION

Breakup of the viscoelastic fluids occurred between 0.2 and 2.0 meters downstream of the nozzle. The corresponding process breakup times as estimated from the breakup distance and average airspeed are about 1.0 and 10 msec. Assuming the deformation rate is inversely proportional to the process time results in a deformation rate ranging from 1000 to 100/sec. Thus attempts to correlate MMD's were based on rheological properties measured at a shear rate of 500/sec.

To test the predicted correlation of the Weber analysis (case 4), a plot of the MMD's of the disseminated polymer solutions versus  $\lambda$  was made (figure A-5). The relaxation time of each fluid was calculated using the relationship  $\lambda = N_1/\dot{\gamma}$  where  $N_1$ , and the shear stress,  $\tau$ , are measured at the same shear rate,  $\dot{\gamma} = 500/\text{sec}$ . MMD data for the four PMMA solutions correlated well with  $\lambda$ , but when one varies the polymer a single correlation does not exist. This deficiency is possibly due to a single rather than



a spectrum of relaxation times associated with the conjectured extensional viscosity model. Spectrum extensional models heavily weight the larger relaxation times while steady shear experiments tend to be insensitive to the upper portion of the spectrum.<sup>6</sup> Thus a mean relaxation time calculated from the shear experiment is not appropriate when one considers solutions where the polymer and therefore molecular weight distribution differ.

A good correlation for all the polymer results was found with the first normal stress difference measured at 500/sec (figure A-6). Whether this correlation is fortuitous or not is uncertain. However, it is not too surprising since  $N_1$  is an indication of the elastic nature of the fluid. Proposed-elongational-viscosity measurements using a bubble collapse technique<sup>9</sup> should elucidate this concern.

A linear relationship between the MMD and injection-tubing inside diameter is also shown in figure A-6. This is expected from the Weber analysis since the final drop size is proportional to the initial jet diameter (equation 4).

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

- 1) The Weiss and Worsham empirical relationship appears valid even when extended to higher viscosity fluids than for which it was originally derived.
- 2) The breakup mechanism in a high-velocity airstream is different for Newtonian and viscoelastic fluids as is evident from the comparative injection photos, resultant MMD's and final drop-size distribution data.
- 3) Addition of polymer increases the resultant particle size but this increase is not solely due to the increase in the liquid's viscosity.
- 4) The MMD versus  $\lambda$  correlation derived from the Weber style analysis using the conjectured-elongational-viscosity model was found to predict performance when the polymer concentration (but not type) was varied.
- 5) The first normal stress difference measured for viscoelastic solutions correlated well with their dissemination performance (MMD).

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# APPENDIX

## FIGURES (PLOTS)

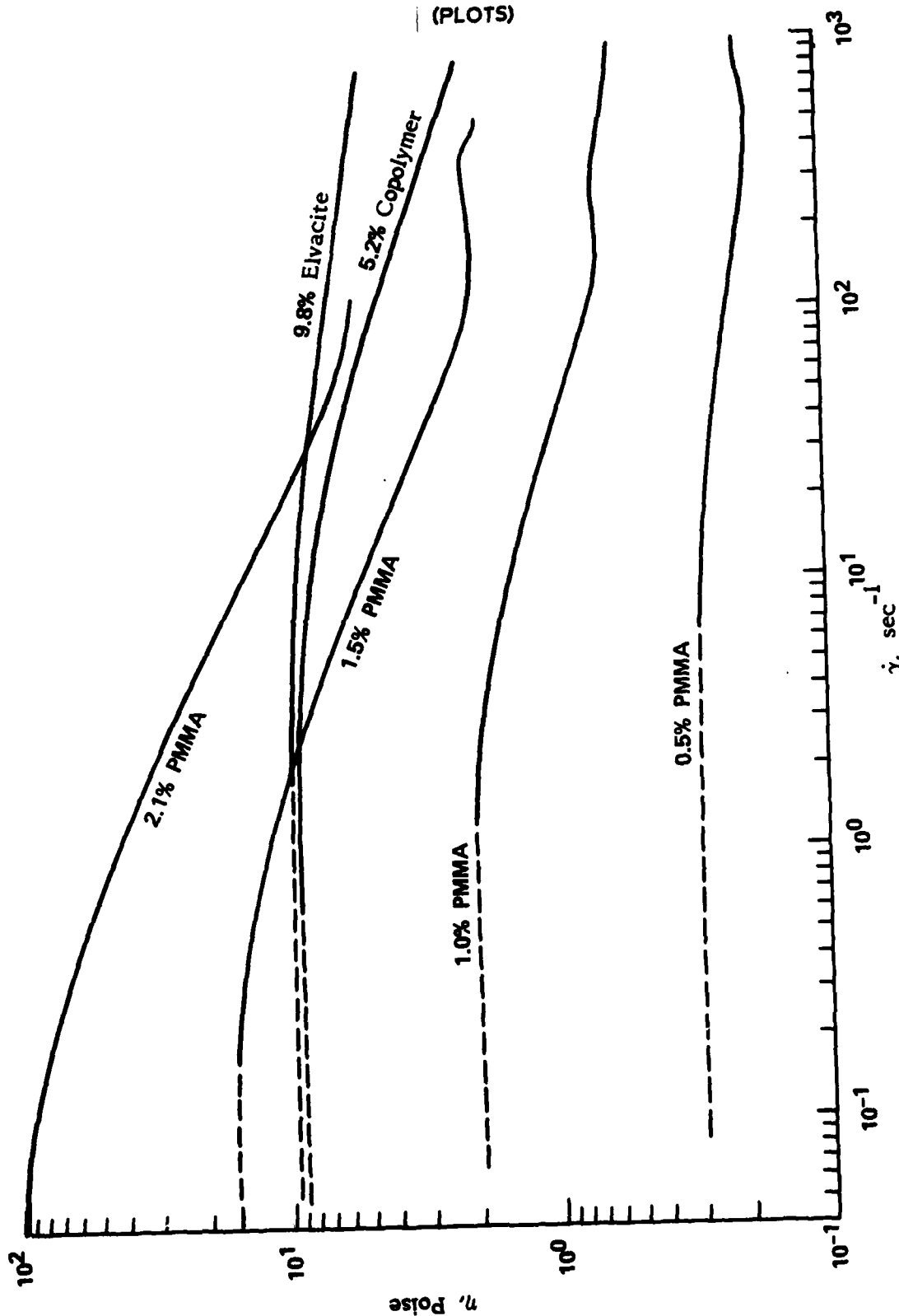


Figure A-1. Viscosity Measurements Versus Shear Rate for Polymer Test Solutions.  
Dashed lines are extrapolated zero shear viscosity values.

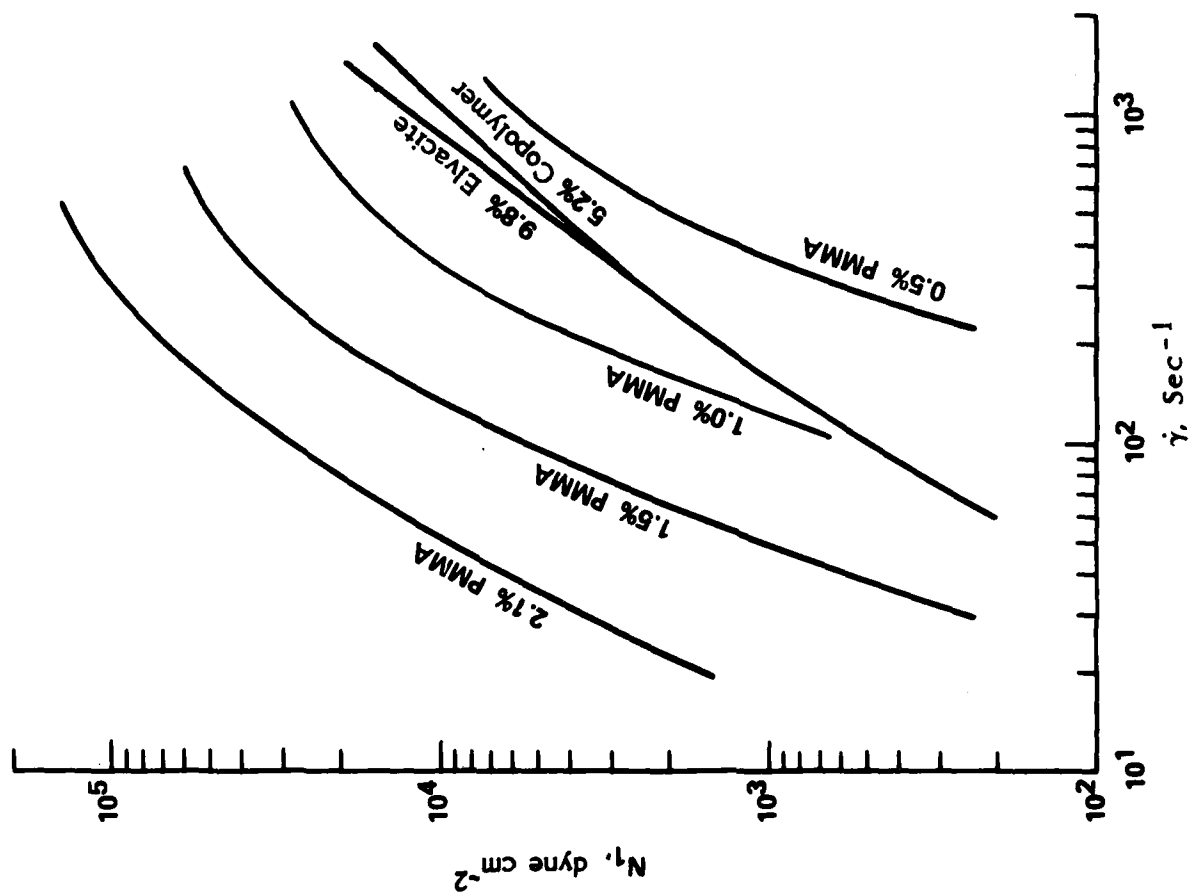


Figure A-2. Cone and Plate First Normal Stress Measurements for Polymer Test Solutions

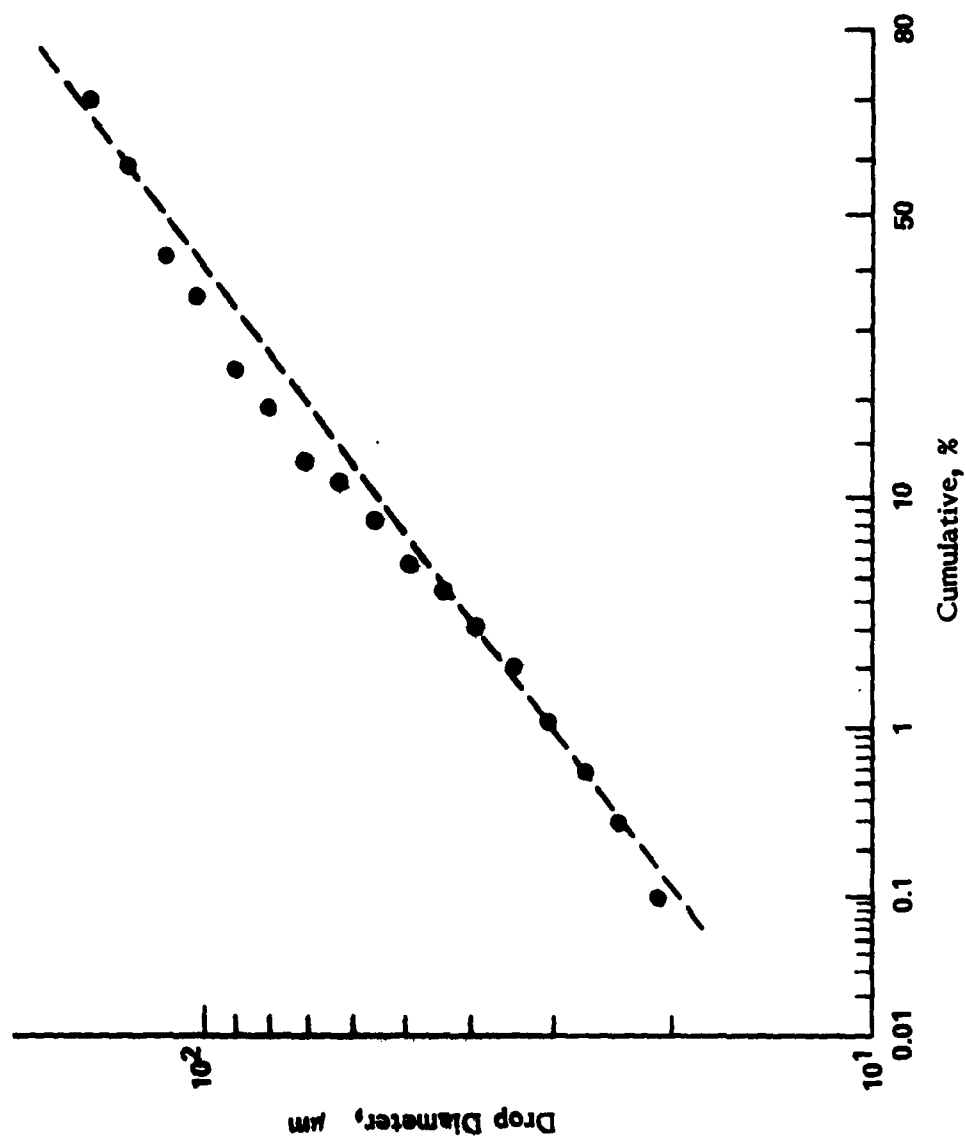


Figure A-3. Cumulative Mass-Log-Normal-Probability Plot for the Glycerol Test Results

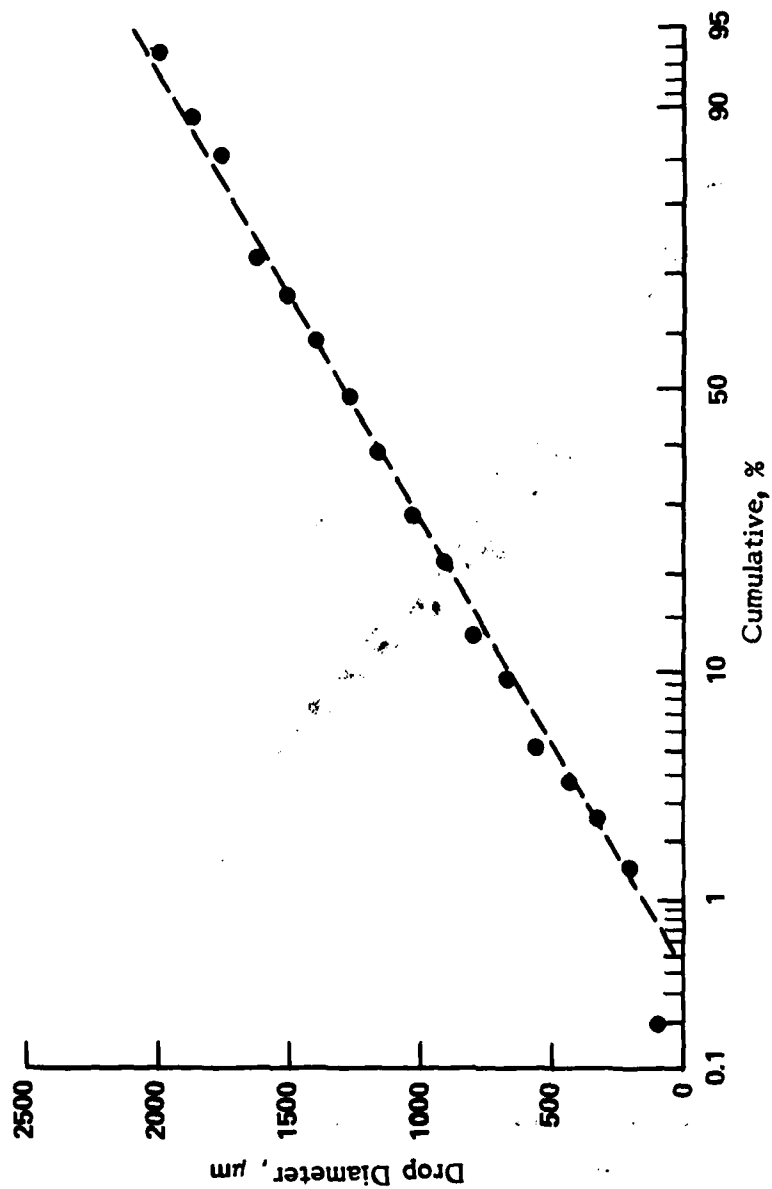


Figure A-4. Cumulative Mass-Normal-Probability Plot for Four Replica  
9.8% Elvacite/DEM Test Results

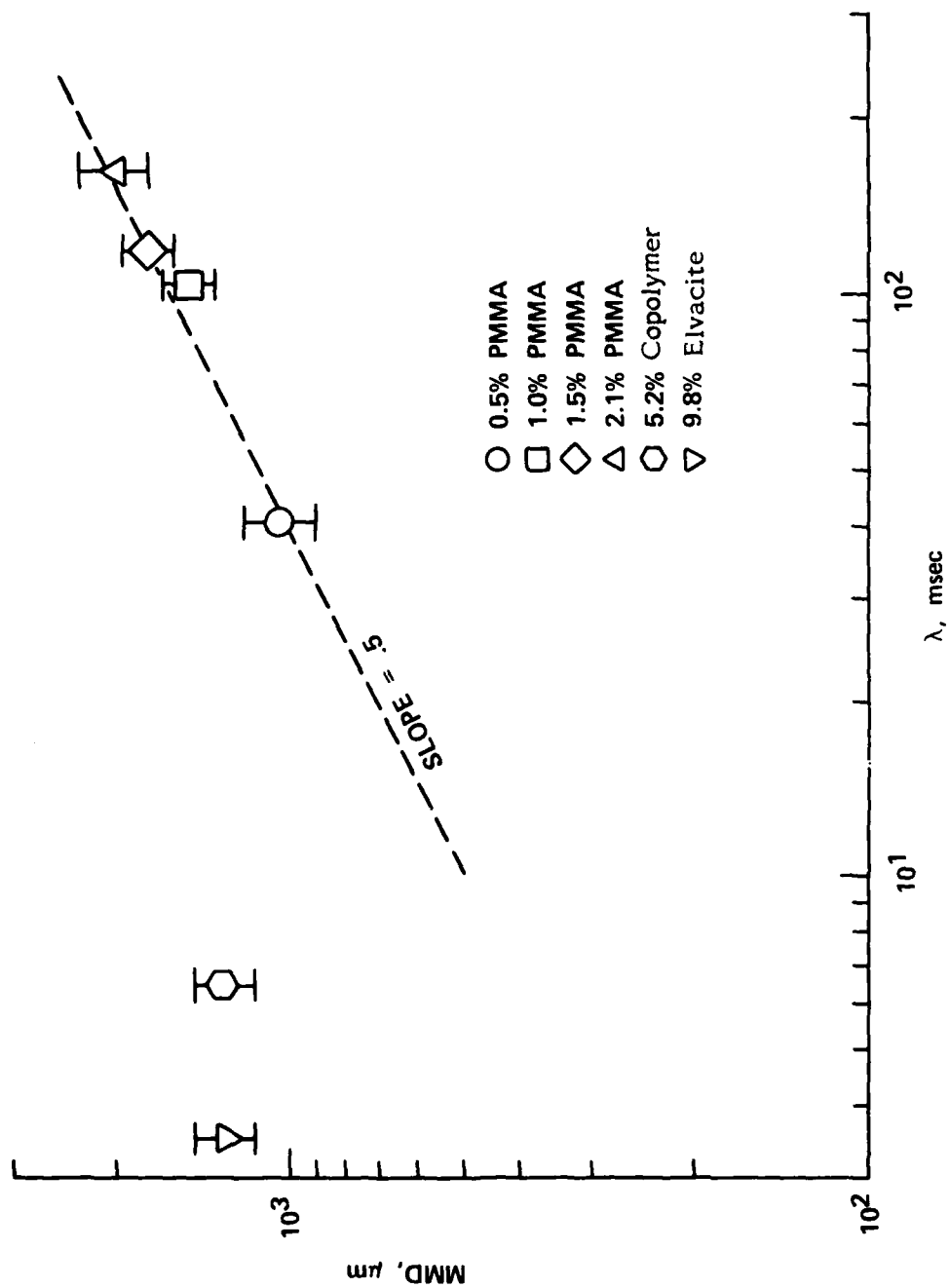
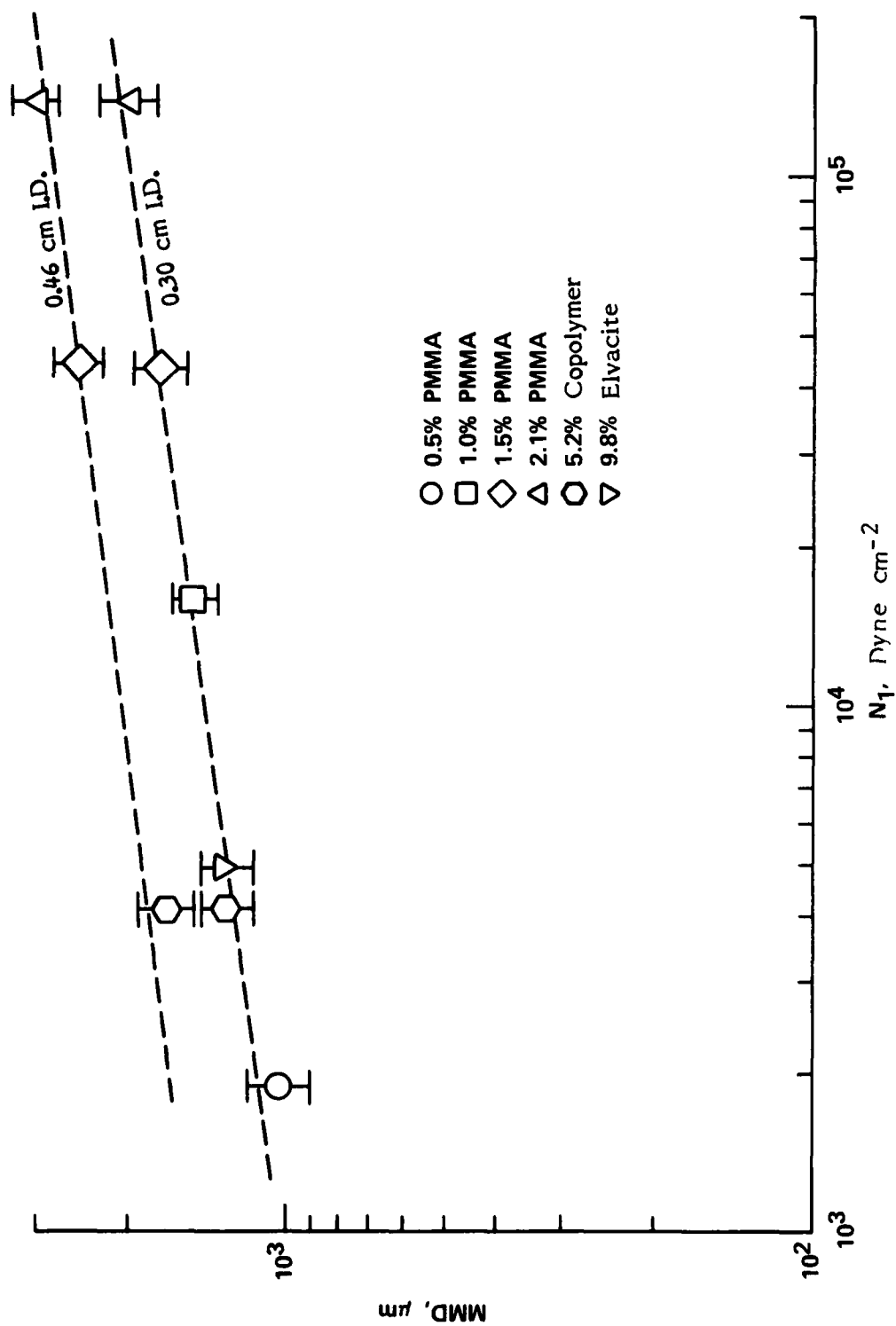


Figure A-5. Test Results, Mass Median Diameter, Versus Relaxation Times Calculated at  $500 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

Figure A-6. Test Results, Mass Median Diameter, Versus First Normal Stress Difference Measured at 500  $\text{sec}^{-1}$



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Toxicology Information Center,  
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National Research Council  
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US Public Health Service  
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Director  
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